

Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

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FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8958

INFO AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

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PASS TO R BOUDON, MARITIME ADMINISTRATION

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EWWT BR

SUBJECT: US/BRAZIL MARITIME DISCUSSIONS

REF: (A) BRASILIA 9638 (B) BRASILIA 9685

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM PREPARED BY AMCON RIO DE JANEIRO.

1. SUMMARY. LETTER FROM SUNAMAM TO MARATT RECEIVED NOVEMBER 29, QUOTED HEREIN, INDICATES WITHOUT FURTHER EXPLANATION THAT NOVEMBER WASHINGTON MARITIME TALKS POSTPONED BY DECISION OF FOREIGN MINISTRY AND TRANSPORT MINISTRY. ALLEGED REASON FOR POSTPONEMENT WAS US ELECTIONS ACCORDING TO SUNAMAM OFFICIALS, WHO ARE UNHAPPY ABOUT POSTPONEMENT AS WELL AS ABOUT HOW LAST MINUTE TRIP CANCELLATION WAS HANDLED BY FOREIGN MINISTRY. END SUMMARY.

2. ON AFTERNOON OF NOV 24, MARATT MET WITH SUNAMAM'S SUPER-INTENDENT MANOEL A D CHIEF OF CABINET ADMIRAL FONSECA E SILVA.

3. ADMIRAL FONSECA E SILVA STATE THAT ON NOV 23 HE MAILED MARATT LETTER REPLYING TO LETTER OF OCT 29, 1976. WRITTEN ON BE HALF OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY BLACKWELL, INVITING ADUD FOR NOV 22/23 WASHINGTON MARITIME TALKS. SUBJ LETTER ADDRESSED TO MARATT,
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DATE NOV 23, RECEIVED AT CONSULATE NOV 29, FREE TRANSLATION

FOLLOWS:

QUOTE: DEAR SIR:

THE SUPERINTENDENT - COMMANDER MANOEL ABUD - ENTRUSTED ME TO TRANSMIT HIS SATISFACTION FOR THE RECEIPT OF THE LETTER DATED OCTOBER 29, IN WHICH YOU CONFIRMED THE INVITATION OF MR. ROBERT J. BLACKWELL, ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF COMMERCE FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS, TO COMDR. ABUD AND HIS PARTY TO CONTINUE IN WASHINGTON THE AGREEMENTS INITIATED LAST SEPTEMBER IN RIO DE JANEIRO AND BRASILIA.

THE SUPERINTENDENT ALSO ASKED ME TO INFORM YOU, ACCORDING TO THE APPOINTMENT WITH YOU ON NOVEMBER 17, THAT UPON DECISION OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT, THE SECOND PHASE OF THE AGREEMENTS MENTIONED ABOVE AND SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER 22 AND 23 WERE POSTPONED FOR A DATE WHICH LATER ON WILL BE SET UP.

THANKING FOR THE KIND INVITATION, ACCEPT THE ASSURANCE OF MY HIGHEST CONSIDERATION.

SIGNED PAULO CARVALHO DA FONSECA E SILVA, CHIEF OF CABINET UNQUOTE

4. DURING MEETING, MARATT WAS INFORMED THAT "TWO OR THREE DAYS" BEFORE BRAZILIAN DELEGATION SCHEDULED DEPART RIO DE JANEIRO FOR WASHINGTON, COUNSELOR HELCIO TAVARES PRIES, HEAD OF THE TRANSPORT DIVISION, FONMIN, REQUESTED LAST MINUTE INSTRUCTIONS FROM FOREIGN MINISTER AMBASSADOR ANTONIO F. AZEREDO DA SILVEIRA WHO REPLIED THAT BECAUSE OF POLITICAL SITUATION IN UNITED STATES, I.E., ELECTION OF A NEW PRESIDENT, TRIP WOULD HAVE TO BE CANCELLED.

5. BOTH COM. ABUD AND ADMIRAL FONSECA E SILVA DISPLAYED CONSIDERABLE IRRITATION AT ACTION INITIATED BY FONMIN, AND AGREED TO BY TRANSPORT MINISTER DIRECEU DE ARAUJO NOGUEIRA, WHICH THEY FEAR MAKES SUNAMAM APPEAR IN VERY UNFORABLE LIGHT. ABUD AGAIN EMPHASIZED THAT BLACKWELL BE INFORMED SUNAMAM HAD NO PART IN CANCELLATION.

6. ABUD MENTIONED THAT HE IS HOPEFUL TALKS CAN BE RESCHEDULED FOR LATER DATE, BUT WAS UNABLE TO CONFIRM THAT THEY WILL BE. HE SAID THAT SHORTLY HE WILL BE LEAVING FOR JAPAN IN CONNECTION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WITH ONE HUNDRED MILLION DOLLAR LOAN TO BE USED IN BRAZIL'S SHIPBUILDING PROGRAM, AND THEREFORE IT DOUBTFUL WASHINGTON TALKS CAN BE RESCHEDULED BEFORE EARLY 1977.

7. ABUD POINTED OUT THAT RECENT STEPS TO GIVE MOORE MC-CORMACK GREATER NORTHBOUND CARGO PARTICIPATION SHOULD, IN HIS VIEW ELIMINATE AND REDUCE SUBSTANTIALLY BY THE END OF THIS YEAR OVERCARRIAGE PENALTIES INCURRED BY BRAZILIAN

LINES IN FAVOR OF MOOREMAC, BUT HE CONFIRMED THAT THERE ARE PROBLEMS YET TO BE DISCUSSED.

8. COMMENT. SUNAMAM OFFICIALS SEEM GENUINELY CONCERNED ABOUT WASHINGTON'S IMPRESSION DUE TO CANCELLATION OF TALKS. THEY FEAR THAT REASON FOR ABRUPT TURN OF EVENTS MAY BE MANEUVERED TO MAKE SUNAMAM APPEAR INDECISIVE AND DISORGANIZED, THEREBY SUBJECTING COM. ABUD AND HIS STAFF TO CRITICISM. IN ANTICIPATION OF THAT EVENTUALITY, SUNAMAM HAS BELATEDLY CLARIFIED THE SITUATION "FOR THE RECORD" IN FONSECA E. SILVA'S LETTER OF NOVEMBER 23, QUOTED ABOVE.
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